

THE BELLOWS

29th GREAT YEAR

September 20, 2007

Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc.

Vol. XXIV No. 1

WHAT	NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF PSPCS
WHERE	DES MOINES MASONIC TEMPLE 2208 S. 223rd St. (Take Midway exit #149 west off I-5...go to first stop light west of Pacific Hwy. South...Turn right.)
WHEN	Thursday, September 20th 7:00 p.m. till 10:00 p.m. (doors open about 6:00p.m.)
WHY	A short business meeting..Auction (one item lot per member please)..Door Prize..Show & Tell.. Members' trade and sell tables (free to members, please cover during business meeting.) Program: We will begin our new year with an expanded Show & Tell of the finds and "treasures" your have aquired doing our two months summer vacation.

WE'RE BACK WITH OUR 29TH GREAT YEAR:

Welcome to the start of our 29th great year. Hopefully, you all had wonderful productive summers that brought you photographica treasures you will be pleased to share with your fellow members on the 20th.

It has been quite a time for our Club during these past 28 years. We grew from six original members to a high of almost three hundred. Today we are at about 125. We have had two presidents and two Secretary/Treasurers. The Club has put our logo on hats, pens, belt buckles, and watches. Our annual Show button has become a collectible. We began our yearly Show 27 years ago and have seen it grow to one of the largest one day Shows in the U.S...only to have both attendance and dealers decrees as digital photography and inter-net selling changed peoples interest in, and need for, non-digital photographica presented at camera shows like ours.

Still, we have at least one more Show left in us and it may still come to pass that a younger generation of photographica collectors will appear to bring new interest, viitality and money to our hobby. (Do you ever get the feeling that we have ended up at the end of a pyramid scheme where everybody else had sellers and buyers but us?)

For those of us who have always enjoyed aquiring "The cameras that photographed our past" the hunt is still a thrill, even if it is much harder today to find that allusive "treasurer" than it was 28 years ago. The days when you could walk into a Good Will store and find a red bellows wooden 4x5 folding camera for \$8.00 are long gone.

However, sharing finds with our fellow collectors, and putting on displays for the general public, is still enjoyable. Not to mention buying low and selling at a profit the items we don't need for our collections. We can look forward to our ten enjoyable meetings, our Christmas party and the hosting of our 28th Show the first week in April 2008. So, welcome to our 29th great year. Let the fun begin.

OUR MEETING SITE MAY CHANGE:

The Club has been notified that the lodge, where we have met for many years, is raising our monthly rent to \$125.00. In responce to this President Darrel has taken the time to do a search of the available meeting halls in the mid Puget Sound area. He has found a hall in the area he feels would serve our needs well and also save us about \$300.00 per year over the requested increase in our current rent. He will present his findings and ask for discussion at our September meeting.

****BACKSIDE INFORMATION****

The June meeting of the Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society came to order at 7:00 p.m. There were 22 members and guests in attendance. The minutes of the May meeting were approved as read. Our Treasurer, Shirley, reported she had withdrawn \$3,000 from the Club CD to pay the first of two payments to the Fair for our 2008 Show. Our checkbook is still in the black.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no official old business but Bill Kimber, who was off visiting his Texas Granddaughter, passed along that our 2008 Show date would be April 5th at the Puyallup Fair Grounds and so far everything was going ok.

Gary Sivertsen reported his garage sale drew several hundred people each day.

NEW BUSINESS:

In an announcement that left the assembled membership speechless Shirley resigned as Secretary-Treasurer effective as soon as elections could be held in the Fall. President Darrel then announced that all the Club officers would stand for election in the fall. (See related story on page 3. Ed)

SHOW & TELL AND PROGRAM:

Four members had items for Show & Tell.

Three members participated in the program by bringing, and showing, their favorite non-paper photographic advertising items i.e. Lighter, knife, clock/watch, belt buckle, playing cards etc.

AUCTION:

Five items were auctioned. One received no bids. The other four sold and a total of \$171.00 was added to their old owners pockets by their new owners.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DOOR PRIZE:

Noted Northwest Photographer, Art Wolfe, will have a series of TV programs on KCTS starting August 4th. Jim Passi is having a huge garage sale at his place in mid September.

John Sparrow won the door prize of an Argus hat.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m. for more buying, selling and nummie munching.

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THIS MONTH'S MYSTERY QUESTION: Answer at end of Newsletter

With thanks to the Western Photographic Historical Society

What 1954-60 stereo camera had a combined rangefinder-viewfinder with a spirit level?



THE BELLOWS Newsletter is published 10 times per year by Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc. Information for The Bellows should be sent to Bill Kimber 1413 Weathervane Dr., Tacoma, WA 98466-5712 (253) 564-4046, billkimber@webtv.net

The P.S.P.C.S. internet address is www.pspcs.org

Dues are \$20.00 per year and should be sent to Secretary/Treasurer Shirley Sparrow, 300 Pease Road, Cle Elum, WA 98922 (509) 674-1916, sesparrow9@msn.com P.S.P.C.S. members receive first notification of our 4th Saturday in April yearly show.

PRESIDENT: DARREL WOMACK (206) 244-6831 DARRELCAM@COMCAST.NET

PRESIDENT DARREL CALLS FOR ELECTIONS:

President Darrel let it be known at our June meeting that he felt it would be time to hold Club officer elections at the beginning of our 29th year. This will be discussed at our September meeting and nominations will be made. The election will be held at our October meeting by secret ballot. Bill and Darrel will run for their respective offices but Shirley will only run for the office of Treasurer. So, no matter who runs for what, we are going to need a new Secretary. The duties of each of the four positions will be outlined at the September meeting. If you would like to hold any of the four positions come ready to put your name up. Fresh thinking and skills are always welcome. Only those members attending our October meeting will be eligible to vote.

KIMBER COLLECTION AT THE PUYALLUP FAIR:

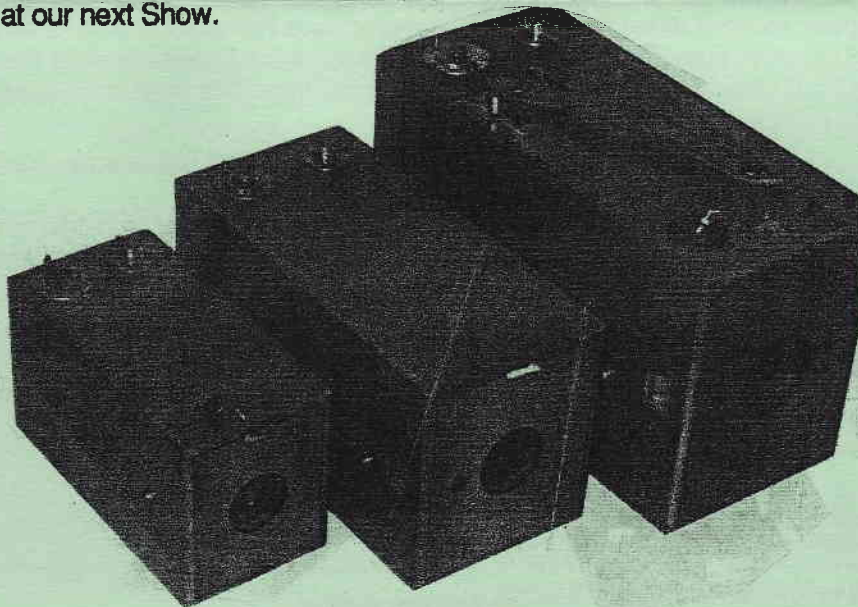
The Western Washington Fair contacted the Club through Don Tempel to see if anyone would be interested in putting a display of "antique" cameras in a locked 8 foot by 30 inch deep by 15 inch high glass case they had just gotten for their Photo. Salon; which is located on the second floor of the Pavilion where we hold our yearly Show. Don contacted Bill Kimber who agreeded to put in a display. He entitled it, "Before the Digital Age" and put in a mixture of old film cameras and photographic figurines plus several Kodak car banks and a group of old dark room equipment. Information forms telling about joining our Club are there as well and hopefully we will attract a new member or two. If you attend the Fair stop by and give it a look see.

TUCSON SHOW OCTOBER 28th:

The Western Photographic Historical Society is holding their 45th Semi-Annual Camera & Photographica Show on Sunday, October 28th from 8:00 am to 3:00pm. General admission is \$5.00. Their 6 foot tables are \$40.00 each; or you can buy a half table for \$25.00. This is the Show Gary has been attending for the past several years. For information contact Paul Garrett: (520) 299-9117 email: sinuoso@aol.com Mail is: WPHS...P.O. Box 14616...Tucson, Arizona 85732-4616.

BUD TAYLOR COLLECTION FINDS A NEW HOME:

As you remember long time member, Bud Taylor, from Billings Montana passed away in December 2006. This summer Merle Cary and I were privileged to be invited by his widow, Jean, to come help her and her son Glenn decide which cameras She should keep and which we should purchase. After an exhausting..but pleasant..twelve hours of sorting, drooling and decision making Merle and I loaded my car with ten tubs of Bud's non-35mm cameras and brought them to their new home. Some will be sold but a good number will become treasured additions to my re-done camera display room. Jean is still a member of PSPCS and we hope to see her at our next Show.



A, B, and C Ordinary Kodak Cameras

The following is from the July 2007 Chicago Photographic Collectors Society Newsletter and is used with thanks. Ed.

Subject: Re: [IDCC] re: Contarex

To: Internet Directory of Camera Collectors <idcc@lists.kjsl.com>

It's been said that the Contarex brought down the Zeiss camera manufacturing company. Can someone explain that to me?

Charles

From: Marc James Small

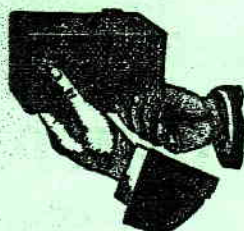
The Contarex was the most expensive camera system of all time, in real dollars, and it just broke the back of Zeiss Ikon. They had insisted that it be a world-beater, as it was, but that also meant that they had to have a first-line lens system, and they got that from Carl Zeiss but at cost. (Zeiss Ikon is NOT Carl Zeiss: they are two separate firms though both are owned by the same foundation. In the 1950's and 1960's, Carl Zeiss was making scazillions of dollars from the production of military gear such as periscopes, medical gear such as microscopes, astronomical gear such as telescopes, and a lot of industrial and test devices running down to gauges to test the sugar content in grapes, and so they wanted desperately to get out of the camera lens business.) Thus, Carl Zeiss charged Zeiss Ikon a REAL premium for the development of all of the new Contarex lenses.

In the end, the Contarex entered the marketplace a year after the Nikon F and at the same time as the first Canonflex SLR. It cost a LOT more: the Nikon F on introduction cost \$US 375, the Canonflex \$300, while the Contarex cost \$499. A lot of US pros, such as Herb Keppler and Peter Dechert, had already been lured to the SLR with the Contax S and D and the Praktina, and they simply went over to the Nikon without a quibble. And Nikon's service for professionals was legendary: if you had a shoot in Laramie, Wyoming, and your Nikon F broke down, a phone call would tell you where to go to pick up a loaner body. Zeiss Ikon (and Leica and Franke & Heidecke) simply said, "tough toenails, cowboy!" The Contarex cost a lot more, the support was lousy, and the camera was complex.

In the end, Zeiss Ikon was forced to market it to advanced amateurs but that meant they were marketing it against the well-established Contaflex, and so, the Contarex just died and died and died, causing HUGE spillages of red ink over the corporate spreadsheets from 1955 to 1973, and all because of this one system. The Zeiss Ikon point-and-shoot cameras, the Contessas and Continas, sold well, as did the Contaflex. The Contax had always sold well and they even did a small run in 1961, perhaps an indication that they were considering killing off the Contarex and returning to the rangefinder. (Of course, as Leica showed, that might only have delayed the inevitable for a decade.) Zeiss Ikon had been most wise to abandon large format in the 1930's and medium format in the 1950's, but they should properly have axed the Contarex in 1960 and looked for another solution. Zeiss Ikon today markets slide projectors but it might still be selling cameras had it done this.

Zeiss Ikon FINALLY got smart and rationalized their lines down to four for 1973: the SL2000F as a replacement for the Contarex, the SL725 as a replacement for the Contaflex, the SL706 as a replacement for the Icarex, and the Contessa 310/312. The Zeiss Foundation never gave them a chance, though the SL706 and Contessa cameras did appear under the Zeiss Ikon label and the SL2000F was to appear, as were those two cameras, under various Rolleiflex and Voigtlander labels. Only the SL725 never entered production, though it made a brief appearance at the 1975 Photokina under the Wolf label. It is a painful thing to discuss but there it is, in all of its sadness, a tale of overweening pride and insufficient capital.

NEW KODAKS



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So

What 1954-60 stereo camera had a combined rangefinder-viewfinder with a spirit level?

Answer: The Stereo Vivid 35mm camera was equipped with an f3.5 Steinheil Trinax Lens pair. The body was constructed of aluminum and covered with leather. Prices range from \$150 to \$250.

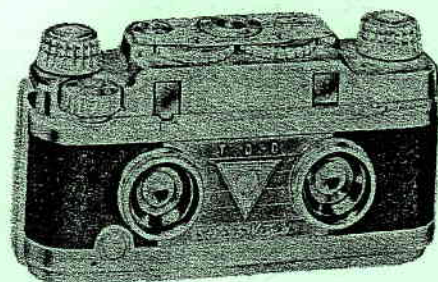


Photo from McKeown's